

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for preventing T cell mediated tissue destruction associated with type I diabetes comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a prophylactically effective amount of a gp39 antagonist selected from the group consisting of soluble CD40, CD40 fusion protein, and an anti-gp39 antibody, or a fragment thereof that binds gp39, wherein the anti-gp39 antibody or fragment binds to an epitope which is specifically bound by a monoclonal antibody is produced by 89-76 ~~hybridoma, ATCC Accession Number HB11713 or 24-31 hybridoma, ATCC Accession Number HB11712~~, wherein the tissue destruction results from a T cell-mediated immune reaction to one or more autoantigens.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the gp39 antagonist is an anti-gp39 antibody.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the anti-gp39 antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the anti-gp39 antibody is an anti-human gp39 antibody.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the monoclonal antibody is ~~89-76 or 24-31, or an antibody having the gp39 binding characteristics thereof.~~

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the monoclonal antibody is a chimeric monoclonal antibody containing constant regions and variable regions from different species.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the monoclonal antibody is a humanized monoclonal antibody.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) A method for preventing a T cell mediated autoimmune response associated with type I diabetes comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a prophylactically effective amount of an anti-gp39 antibody or a gp39-binding fragment thereof, ~~comprising variable regions~~ which antibody or fragment comprises a hypervariable region of monoclonal antibody 24-31 (ATCC Accession Number HB11712) ~~or monoclonal antibody 89-76, or of an antibody having the gp39 binding characteristics thereof.~~

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the gp39 antagonist is a gp39-binding antibody fragment ~~comprising variable regions of monoclonal antibody 24-31.~~

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the gp39-binding antibody fragment is a Fab or F(ab')₂ fragment ~~comprising variable regions of monoclonal antibody 24-31.~~

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the chimeric monoclonal anti-gp39 antibody comprises variable regions of monoclonal antibody 24-31.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the humanized monoclonal anti-gp39 antibody comprises variable regions of monoclonal antibody 24-31.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)